(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Agreement between Government and Railwaymen's Unions

3653. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unions of Railwaymen have critisized Government for not implementing the 1997 agreement reached between Government and the employees;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the agreement;

(c) whether Railwaymen's unions have expressed opposition to privatisation of catering and station maintenance work; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction to these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The decision to privatize the catering services on Indian Railways was taken in the year 1992. The organized labour have been taken into confidence in this regard from the very beginning and their opposition to the move and demand for security to the employees of the departmental units had been deliberated with them at great length. Ministry of Railways have assured job security of the personnel working in Catering Department including Commission bearers/vendors. Necessary action has been taken to absorb them in catering as well as in other departments of Indian Railways.

As regards station maintenance work, there is, at present, no move to privatize the same.

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

3654. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways have received any proposal from Gujarat Government for conversion of MG/NG lines into B.G; if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Railways on them;

(b) whether the Ministry of Railways has any plan of taking up any